

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 7-9, 20-22, 25, 33-35, and 38, rejected claims 1, 2, 4-6, 13-15, 17-19, 26-28, 30-32, and 39, and found that claims 3, 10, 11, 16, 23, 24, 29, 36, and 37 would be allowed if written in independent form including the requirements of the base and intervening claims. Applicants traverse the prior art rejections and submit that all pending claims are patentable over the prior art and in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 13-15, 18, 19, 26-28, 31, 32, and 39 as obvious (35 U.S.C. §103) over Yosefi (U.S. Patent No. 5,649,220) in view of Hsu (U.S. Patent No. 5,581,691). Applicants traverse for the following reasons.

Independent claims 1, 14, and 27 concern workflow management for creating and delivering output material, comprising: generating a customer record to include fields specifying at least one product, customer preferences, and a selected delivery option indicating a method to deliver generated output material on the product specified in the customer record; adding a job record including a status field to a job status table for the customer record; setting the added job record status to a first status; processing a selected job in the job status table; invoking a first worker if the selected job has the first status; generating, with the first worker, output material from processing the product and customer preference fields in the customer record for the selected job; setting the status for the selected job in the job status table to a second status after generating the output material with the first worker; invoking a second worker if the selected job has the second status; determining, with the second worker, a selected one of a plurality of delivery options from the customer record for the selected job; and transmitting, with the second worker, the output material via the determined delivery option to the customer specified in the customer record.

In the Response to Arguments, the Examiner found that col. 7, lines 38-42 of Yosefi teaches the claim requirement of a customer record including fields specifying a product, customer preferences and a delivery operation indicating a method to deliver the output. (Final Office Action, pg. 7). Applicants traverse.

The cited col. 7 mentions that the artwork designer provides job ticket information, such as the title of the job, customer name and address, and that this information is stored in a

database. Although the cited col. 7 discusses certain attributes of a job ticket, nowhere does the cited col. 7 of Yosefi anywhere teach or suggest that the customer record specify a product and customer preference. The Examiner found that the cited Yosefi discussion of a page size and number of pages in the job ticket teaches the claim requirement of customer preferences. Applicants dispute this finding because the page size and number of pages mentioned in Yosefi are not customer preferences, but instead attributes of a print job represented by a job ticket. The claims on the other hand concern a customer record with certain information, such as a product and customer preferences, which is nowhere taught or suggested in the cited col. 7 of Yosefi.

In the Response to Arguments, the Examiner further cited the secondary menu of Yosefi discussed at col. 8, lines 10-14 and FIG. 5 of Yosefi. The cited col. 8 indicates devices a user may select to perform the printing operation, such as a plotter. However, the product mentioned in the claims is not the printer used to generate the output, as mentioned in the cited Yosefi, but is instead the product that is the subject of the delivered generated output because the claims require "generated output material on the product specified in the customer record". Thus, the claimed customer record specifies a product that is the subject of the delivered generated output material. The cited col. 8 fails to teach this requirement because the products mentioned in the cited col. 8 concern the printer used to generate the output, not the product that is the subject matter of the generated output material.

In the Response to Arguments, the Examiner further cited col. 9, lines 16-8. (Final Office Action, pg. 7) The cited col. 9 mentions that the names of output data files are stored in a job ticket database. However, the discussion in Yosefi of names of output data files does not teach or suggest the information included in the claimed customer record, including a product that is the subject matter of the generated output material, customer preferences, and a delivery option.

The Examiner further cited col. 9, lines 39-47 as teaching the delivery option requirement of the customer record limitation. (Final Office Action, pg. 7). The cited col. 9 mentions that the artwork designer, which the examiner likens to the customer, transmits the job data to a production shop. The claims on the other hand require a customer record indicating a delivery option to deliver the output material to the customer. Previously the Examiner likened the job ticket to the customer record, which has a customer name and address. However, the cited col. 9, lines 39-47 concerns the artwork designer transmitting job data to a production shop to

generate the output. Nowhere does the cited col. 9 anywhere teach or suggest a delivery option in the customer record to deliver the output material to the customer. Instead, the cited col. 9 mentions transmitting the job to a production shop, which is different from the claimed delivery option indicating a method to deliver the generated output material.

Further, the Examiner likens the artwork designer to the customer. (Final Office action, pg. 7) However, nowhere does the cited Yosefi teach or suggest that the information in the job ticket includes a delivery option for delivering the output to the artwork designer. Instead, Yosefi mentions that the artwork designer sends the job to a production shop to produce.

Accordingly, the sections of Yosefi the Examiner cited in the Response to Arguments does not teach or suggest the claimed customer record limitation.

In the Response to Arguments, the Examiner cited col. 8, lines 1-6 of Yosefi as teaching the claim requirements of invoking a first worker if the selected job has the first status and generating, with the first worker, output material from processing the product and customer preference fields in the customer record for the selected job. (Final Office Action, pg. 8). Applicants traverse.

The cited col. 8 mentions that users, such as artwork designer and production shop workers, use the workflow manager to perform operations listed in the blocks of the workflow. The workflow manager acts as a shell package providing users with a selection of devices to operate. Nowhere does the cited col. 8 anywhere teach or suggest that a first worker is invoked if the job has the first status and then generating output material from processing product and customer preference fields in a customer record for the selected job.

The Examiner likened the artwork designer to the first worker. (Final Office Action, pg. 8) However, the cited col. 8 does not teach the claim requirements that the artwork designer act like the claimed first worker and generate the output material from processing the product and customer preference fields in the customer record, which is the output material sent to the customer. Nowhere does the cited col. 8 anywhere teach that the cited artwork designer perform the operations of the first worker in response to a job having a first status in a job table.

Accordingly, the sections of Yosefi the Examiner cited in the Response to Arguments does not teach or suggest the claimed operations of the first worker.

Claims 2, 15, and 28 depend from claims 1, 14, and 27 and further require that the first worker generates output material by: accessing at least one content file by processing a database table using values in the customer record associated with the selected job; and generating the content of each accessed file into the output material.

In the Response to Arguments, the Examiner cited col. 7, lines 41-59 and col. 8, lines 1-3 as teaching these claim requirements. (Office Action, pg. 8). Applicants traverse.

The cited col. 7 mentions a workflow of operations to be performed. Nowhere does the cited col. 7 anywhere teach or suggest the specific claimed workflow operations of accessing at least one content file by processing a database table using values in the customer record associated with the selected job and generating the content of each accessed file into the output material. Instead, the cited col. 7 discusses workflow operations in very general terms. The cited col. 8 mentions that through the workflow, the users perform their respective operations. Again, the cited col. 8, like the cited col. 7, discusses workflow operations in general terms, and nowhere teaches, suggests or mentions the specific claimed operations.

Accordingly, the art cited in the Response to Arguments does not teach or suggest the additional requirements of claims 2, 15, and 28.

In the Response to Arguments, the Examiner cited col. 7, lines 17-19 of Hsu as teaching the additional requirements of claims 5, 18, and 31. (Final Office Action, pg. 9) Claims 5, 18, and 31 depend from claims 1, 14, and 27 and further require: determining, with the first and second workers, whether an error occurred while processing the selected job; setting, with the first and second workers, the status in the job status table for the selected job to an error status; invoking an error worker if the selected job has the error status; performing, with the error worker, error recovery operations for the selected job; and setting, with the error worker, the status of the selected job to one of the first and second statuses after the error recovery operation.

The cited col. 7 of Hsu discusses a compensation routine that is called when an exception occurs, which performs steps to deal with the exception and clean up after the work flow is aborted. Applicant submits that Hsu's general mention of a flow of steps for a compensation routine nowhere teaches, suggests or mentions the specific requirements of claim 5. For instance, nowhere does the cited col. 7 of Hsu anywhere teach, suggest or mention that first and second workers determine and set the status in the job status table to an error status, that an error

worker is invoked and performs error recovery operations, and then sets the status to one of the first and second statuses. These specific operations are nowhere mentioned in the cited Hsu.

Accordingly, the art cited in the Response to Arguments does not teach or suggest the additional requirements of claims 2, 15, and 28.

Applicants submit that the allowable claims 3, 10, 11, 16, 23, 24, 29, 36, and 37 are patentable over the cited art in their current form because they depend from one of claims 1, 14, and 27, directly or indirectly, which are patentable over the cited art for the reasons discussed above.

In addition to the Response to Arguments, on pages 2-7 the Examiner also provided additional grounds of rejection, including many of the findings from the previous office action dated May 22, 2003. Applicants submit below arguments traversing the rejections on pages 2-7, which include the arguments presented in the Amendment dated September 22, 2003 in which the Applicants provided grounds and arguments to traverse the obviousness rejections and findings in the May 22, 2003 Office Action. Additional arguments are provided to new sections of the cited art the Examiner cites.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 13-15, 18, 19, 26-28, 31, 32, and 39 as obvious (35 U.S.C. §103) over Yosefi (U.S. Patent No. 5,649,220) in view of Hsu (U.S. Patent No. 5,581,691). Applicants traverse for the following reasons.

Independent claims 1, 14, and 27 concern workflow management for creating and delivering output material, comprising: generating a customer record to include fields specifying at least one product, customer preferences, and a selected delivery option indicating a method to deliver generated output material on the product specified in the customer record; adding a job record including a status field to a job status table for the customer record; setting the added job record status to a first status; processing a selected job in the job status table; invoking a first worker if the selected job has the first status; generating, with the first worker, output material from processing the product and customer preference fields in the customer record for the selected job; setting the status for the selected job in the job status table to a second status after generating the output material with the first worker; invoking a second worker if the selected job has the second status; determining, with the second worker, a selected one of a plurality of delivery options from the customer record for the selected job; and transmitting, with the second

worker, the output material via the determined delivery option to the customer specified in the customer record.

The Examiner cited col. 8, lines 10-14 and col. 10, lines 32-37 of Yosefi as teaching the claim requirement that the customer record includes a selected delivery option to indicate a method to deliver the generated output material. (Final Office Action, pgs.2- 3) These claims further require that the output material is transmitted to the customer via the delivery option in the customer record. Applicants traverse.

The cited col. 8 of Yosefi mentions that the user can select an artwork preparation device, such as a raster image processor. A menu appears indicating the types of devices the user can select to perform the operation. The cited col. 10 mentions that once the page formed of graphical, textual and raster image elements is rasterized, the produced rastered image file can be stored or utilized to create physical output via a plotter or proffer device.

The cite cols. 8 and 10 discuss how the user may select a technique for generating the output artwork. Nowhere do the cited cols. 8 and 10 anywhere teach or suggest a customer record including a delivery option indicating a method to deliver the output, where the output material is transmitted to the customer via the delivery option. Instead, the cited cols. 8 and 10 concern the device or technique, such as raster image processing, that will be used to generate the artwork output, not a delivery option indicating how the output will be delivered to the customer.

Thus, nowhere do the cited cols. 8 and 10 teach or suggest the claim requirement that a customer record including fields on a product and customer preferences also include a delivery option of how to transmit the output to the customer. Instead, the cited cols. 8 and 10 discuss how the user may select an artwork preparation device, including a raster image processor, to generate the artwork.

The Examiner cited col. 8, lines 1-6 of Yosefi as teaching the claim requirements of invoking a first worker if the selected job has the first status and generating, with the first worker, output material from processing the product and customer preference fields in the customer record for the selected job. (Final Office Action, pg. 3). Applicants traverse.

The cited col. 8 mentions that users, such as artwork designer and production shop workers, use the workflow manager to perform operations listed in the blocks of the workflow. The workflow manager acts as a shell package providing users with a selection of devices to

operate. Nowhere does the cited col. 8 anywhere teach or suggest that a first worker is invoked if the job has the first status and then generating output material from processing product and customer preference fields in a customer record for the selected job. Nowhere does the cited col. 8 anywhere teach or suggest the specific claim requirements of how output material is processed based on a first status associated with the job in the job status table and preferences in a customer record.

The Examiner cited col. 9, lines 16-18 and 39-47 as teaching the claim requirements of: invoking a second worker if the selected job has the second status; determining, with the second worker, a selected one of a plurality of delivery options from the customer record for the selected job; and transmitting, with the second worker, the output material via the determined delivery option to the customer specified in the customer record. (Note, the cited col. 9 was not cited in the previous Office Action.)

The cited col. 9 mentions that a workflow manager stores names of output data files in the job ticket database. The cited col. 9 further mentions that the artwork designer transmits job data, including the database record, output data file, etc., to the production shop and that the production shop returns newly created data files to the artwork designer. Although the cited col. 9 discusses how an artwork designer and production shop exchange the job data and files when processing the job, nowhere does the cited col. 9 anywhere teach or suggest that a worker transmits output material via a determined delivery option indicated in a customer record. Nowhere is there any mention in the cited col. 9 of transmitting output material via a delivery option included in the customer record.

The Examiner cited Hsu as teaching the claim requirements concerning setting status for jobs in a workflow and modified Yosefi to include this teaching of setting status for jobs. (Final Office Action, pg. 3) Notwithstanding, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the claim requirements concerning the above discussed operations the invoked first and second workers perform and how these workers process a customer record for a selected job in response to certain statuses set for the job.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1, 14, and 27 are patentable over the cited combination of Yosefi and Hsu because these references, alone and in combination, do not teach or suggest all the claim requirements.

Claims 2, 5, 6, 13, 15, 18, 19, 26, 28, 31, 32, and 39 are patentable over the cited art because they depend from one of claims 1, 14, and 27, which are patentable over the cited art for the reasons discussed above, and because the combination of the dependent claim limitations with the base and intervening claims provide further distinctions over the cited art. Moreover, the claims discussed below provide still further additional grounds of patentability over the cited art.

With respect to claims 2, 15, and 28, the Examiner cited the same art and provided the same grounds of rejection provided in the Response to Arguments discussed above. (Final Office Action, pgs. 4, 8). Accordingly, these claims are patentable over the cited art for the reasons discussed above addressing the art cited in the Response to Arguments.

Claims 5, 18, and 31 depend from claims 1, 14, and 27 and further require: determining, with the first and second workers, whether an error occurred while processing the selected job; setting, with the first and second workers, the status in the job status table for the selected job to an error status; invoking an error worker if the selected job has the error status; performing, with the error worker, error recovery operations for the selected job; and setting, with the error worker, the status of the selected job to one of the first and second statuses after the error recovery operation. The Examiner cited col. 7, lines 8-20 of Hsu as teaching the additional requirements of these claims. (Final Office Action, pgs. 4-5)

The cited col. 7 of Hsu discusses a compensation routine that is called when an exception occurs, which performs steps to deal with the exception and clean up after the work flow is aborted. Although the cited col. 7 discusses error recovery, nowhere does the cited col. 7 anywhere teach or suggest the claim requirements of setting the status of the selected job to one of the first and second statuses after the error recovery operation, where according to the base claim, the first and second statuses are used to determine whether to invoke a first or second worker to process the job. Instead, the cited col. 7 concerns a “clean up” after a work flow that is initiated by a human operator after some failure. (Col. 7, lines 20-24)

Accordingly, claims 5, 18, and 31 provide further grounds of distinction over the cited art because the cited art does not teach or suggest the additional requirements of these claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 4, 17, and 30 as obvious (35 U.S.C. §103) over Yosefi, in view of Hsu in view of Milsted (U.S. Patent No. 6,345,256). (Final Office Action, pg. 6)

Applicants traverse because claims 4, 17, and 30 depend from claims 1, 14, and 27, which are patentable over the cited art for the reasons discussed above and because the additional requirements of these claims in combination with the base claims provide further grounds of patentability over the cited art.

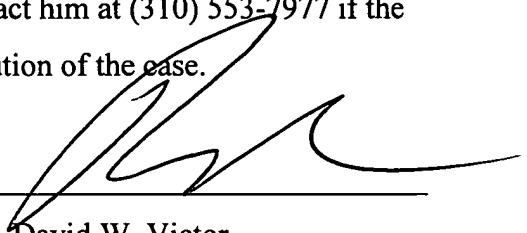
Conclusion

For all the above reasons, Applicant submits that the pending claims 1-39 are patentable over the art of record. Applicants submit that no additional fees are necessary. Nonetheless, should any additional fees be required, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0563.

The attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact him at (310) 553-7977 if the Examiner believes such contact would advance the prosecution of the case.

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